

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 20 are in the application. Claims 18 through 20 are new, claims 1 through 17 stand rejected. All but claims 4 and 8 are amended. Claims 4 and 8 are canceled.

### **Section 102 rejections**

Claims 1-4, 8, and 13-14 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by *Tanaka*, US 5,298,722. All of these claims are ultimately dependent upon independent Claim 1. Applicant has amended these claims to indicate that the serpentine path is a sensor path rather than a heating path as taught by *Tanaka*.

*Tanaka* teaches a serpentine heating path in which the number of turns in the conductive path is used to control heat generation (col. 4, lines 19-31). Applicant's invention requires no serpentine conductive path for the heating elements because control of heat generation is provided by using the information from the sensor to control the heat output as is well known in the art of heating blankets.

Hence, claim 1 and its progeny as amended are believed to be distinguished from *Tanaka*.

### **Section 103 rejections**

The remaining claims were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over *Tanaka* in view, variously of *Kochman*, US 5,824,065, *Gardner*, US 6,483,087, and *Gray*, US 4,250,397. These secondary references fail to rectify the deficiency noted above with respect to a heat sensor circuit or path. This now brings into consideration independent claim 15. Claim 15 and its progeny are also amended to make clear that these claims are directed to a sensor circuit, thereby again taking *Tanaka* out as a reference. Therefore these arguments are moot for the reasons put forth above.

### **New claims**

New claim 18 is added to included optical locating of the sensor busses for the punching operation. This is supported in the specification at paragraph [0028].

New independent claim 19 is added to maintain Applicant's claim to a simple serpentine conductor, but limits the busses to foil busses. Foil busses are preferred because they are more

easily and reliably punched through. Narrow, thick metal wires or conductive polymers are more likely to stretch rather than break, or simply slide out of the way of a punch tool.

Claim 20 is added to also include the optical scanning feature.

### **New Drawings**

New drawings are provided. As Examiner has required, the reference number "21" has been added to Figure 4. Small irregularities, namely arrow heads, have been eliminated from Figure 1 through 3.

### **Specification**

Paragraph [0027] is amended to refer to the reference number "21" now added to Figure 4.

### **CONCLUSION**

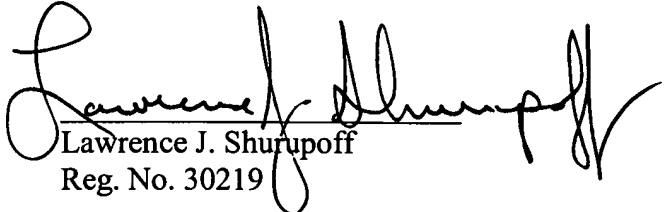
For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe the claims as amended to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other art cited, but not relied upon, has been reviewed, but is not considered to affect patentability.

No fee is believed due, but the Commissioner is authorized to debit any amounts due, or credit any overpayments, to the deposit account of record.

If the Examiner is relying on any personal knowledge in rejecting the claims, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner set forth any such personal knowledge under 37 C.F.R. §1.107(b).

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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